have therefore no information about this firm. No export of Vinca-Rosea from the northern State has been reported.

(c) and (d) In view of the limited potential of Vinca-Rosea in the northern States, no incentives are being given by the Central Government. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow has developed agrotechnology for cultivation of Vinca-Rosea and extraction of alkalides therefrom.

US threat to impose duty on India's engineering exports

2818. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Government has threatened to impose countervailing duty on India's engineering exports to that country to neutralise the IPRS benefit given to engineering exporters by the Indian Government ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it is likely to affect our engineering export trade to the United States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) and (b) The US Government have been levying countervailing duty on iron metal castings imported from India since 1980. Following the 1984 review of the countervailing duty order they made a preliminary determination on 7 October, 1986 under which the reimbursements made to Indian exporters of castings under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) have been considered as a countervailable subsidy. We are awaiting the results of the final determination and in the meanwhile representations have been made to the U.S. authorities that reimbursements under IPRS should not be considered as a countervailable subsidy.

(c) In case the decision to treat IPRS as a counterviable subsidy is upheld in the final determination by the US Government, our exports of engineering goods could be adversely affected. It is however not possible to quantify the effect as much would depend upon the extent to which IPRS is availed of by the Indian exporters and whether in respect of such exports the US authorities are able to establish injury to their domestic industries.

Problems of the jute industry

2819. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had held a meeting with the representatives of jute mills, Central trade unions and the Central and State Government officials on November 14, 1986 to discuss all industrial relations/ problems of the jute industry;

(b) if so, what are the details of the issues discussed therein; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The West Bengal Labour Minister convened a tripartite meeting on 14th November, 1986 at Calcutta to discuss the Schemes regarding the Special Funds announced for the modernisation and diversification of the Jute Industry. I attended the Meeting at the invitation of the State Government. At the meeting the participants also discussed issues relating, among others, to continued lockouts of a large number of jute mills, growing competition from synthetic products and defaults in payments of PF and ESI contributions by the Jute Mills.

Talks with Pakistan regarding terrorist activities

2820. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were held with Pakistan during the recent SAARC summit at Bangalore regarding the activities of the terrorists; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof ?